



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

September 12, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Senate and Assembly have been working to clear a large volume of bills prior to adjournment which is expected to occur late today, or perhaps tomorrow. Among the major issues to be considered are the Workers' Compensation reform package, and County-supported SB 2 (Burton), the employer health coverage mandate.

**As of 4pm today**, the Senate adopted SB 2 by a vote of 25 to 14, while the Assembly has yet to consider the measure. With respect to Workers' Compensation, both the Senate and Assembly have thus far only acted on two elements of the overall package, AB 227 (Vargas) and SB 228 (Alarcon). We will provide you with a more comprehensive update next week.

## Increased Local Authority to Levy Sales Tax

Yesterday, the Senate passed and sent to the Governor SB 566 (Scott), a bill sponsored by Sheriff Baca that, as introduced, would have raised the Transaction and Use Tax cap for Los Angeles County from 1.5 percent to 2 percent. Because the City of Avalon levies a half-cent tax, in addition to the County's one percent transportation tax, the County is at the maximum. SB 566 was amended in the Assembly to extend the increased authority to all counties and cities. Current law was also amended to clarify that the additional authority could be used to increase or extend an existing tax, as well as to levy a new tax. Increases would be subject to existing requirements for voter approval: a simple majority for general purposes, and two-thirds for special purposes.

## Assembly Mandates Committee Recommendations

After weeks of testimony and consideration of various mandates on schools and local governments, the Committee had four bills drafted to reflect its conclusions. However,

because of the crush of business at the end of session, the bills will not be taken up until next year.

### **FY 2003-04 State Budget Instructions**

Last Friday, September 5, 2003, the Department of Finance issued its FY 2003-04 Budget instructions to departments calling for a 20 percent reduction target for every State Agency in order to close a projected budget gap of \$7.9 billion. The letter notes that in view of the cumulative funding and position reductions that departments have experienced in the last few years, reduction proposals should include one or more of the following:

- The reduction or repeal of constitutionally or statutorily required activities or programs.
- The elimination of discretionary programs.
- Program consolidation.
- The reorganization of agencies, departments, boards, commission, and offices.
- Restructuring program responsibilities between the State and local government entities.

Needless to say, counties will have a great deal at stake in next year's budget.

### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-sponsored AB 44 (Pacheco)**, which would address technical issues regarding the notification of various parties of juvenile court proceedings to determine, review, revise or terminate the status of a child as a dependent child of the court, passed the Senate Floor on September 10, 2003 by a vote of 40 to 0 and now proceeds to the Assembly for concurrence in Senate amendments.

**County-supported, if amended, AB 185 (Horton)**, which would have required the County to make temporary positions in the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department Insect Detection Program full-time, permanent positions, was amended on September 9, 2003 on the Senate floor. The amendments prohibit the State Department of Food and Agriculture from entering into cooperative agreements with Los Angeles County, beginning in the 2003-04 fiscal year, unless at least 20 percent of the agricultural aides performing the work are permanent employees. We will maintain our position of support if amended to provide funding for the positions. This measure is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Assembly concurred with Senate amendments to **County-supported AB 231 (Steinberg)**, which exempts one vehicle as a resource for Food Stamps and gives counties the flexibility to exempt a household from complying with face-to-face interview requirements for Food Stamps at application and recertification, by a vote of 48 to 29. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

The Assembly concurred with Senate amendments to **County-supported AB 408 (Steinberg)**, which seeks to ensure that no child be emancipated from the foster care system without a connection to a committed and caring adult by requiring social workers to make additional reports at various times throughout the dependency process regarding efforts to identify and maintain a child's relationship with individuals who are important to the child, by a vote of 78 to 0. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

The Assembly concurred with Senate amendments to **County-supported AB 490 (Steinberg)**, which seeks to ensure that all students in foster care have the opportunity to meet the same academic achievement standards as other students and are placed in the least restrictive educational program with access to the same academic resources and services as other pupils, by a vote of 77 to 1. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

**County-opposed, unless amended, AB 1051 (Goldberg)**, which would change the way utilities charge users for capital improvements, was passed by the Senate on September 10, 2003, by a vote of 24 to 12. The Assembly voted 55 to 13 to concur in the Senate's amendments on September 11, 2003. The bill proceeds to the Governor.

**County-supported AB 1154 (Frommer)**, which would have exempted the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development from any State hiring freezes and curtailments, was gutted and amended on September 11, 2003, and now appropriates funding from the General Fund, the Motor Vehicle Account and the State Highway Account in the State Transportation Fund, and the Vehicle License Fee Account in the Transportation Tax Fund to pay judgment, settlement, and interest claims. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will no longer support AB 1154.**

**County-supported AB 1313 (Parra)**, which would extend the provisions of Megan's Law, from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2007, passed the Senate on a vote of 40 to 0, and was returned to the Assembly for concurrence with Senate amendments.

**County-supported, AB 1405 (Wolk and Harman)**, which encourages the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Resources Agency to provide assistance and grants to those who choose to participate in watershed enhancement and restoration, received Assembly' concurrence with Senate amendments on September 11, 2003, by a vote of 76 to 1. The bill proceeds to the Governor.

The Assembly concurred with Senate amendments to **County-sponsored AB 1469 (Negrete McLeod)**, which revises provisions regarding the timeline for providing specified reports to parties in dependency matters in Los Angeles County, by a vote of 56 to 12. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

**County-supported AB 1479 (Chu)**, which would delete the Department of Motor Vehicles exclusive control over the monitoring of the traffic violator school program and continue the Court's control over monitoring, was sent to the Governor on September 10, 2003, after the Assembly concurred with Senate amendments by a vote of 53 to 26.

**County-supported AB 1618 (Firebaugh and Calderon)**, which would require railroad companies to develop an approved protocol for rapid communications with the State Office of Emergency Services, the California Highway Patrol, and designated local public safety agencies by March 1, 2004, passed the Senate on September 11, 2003 by a vote of 27 to 9, and was sent to the Assembly for concurrence with Senate amendments.

**County-supported SB 186 (Murray)**, which would prohibit the initiating of, or advertising in, unsolicited commercial e-mail, and authorize a recipient, internet service provider, or the Attorney General to recover damages passed the Senate on September 11, 2003, after concurrence with Assembly amendments. The Assembly amendments prohibit the collecting or registering of e-mail addresses for the purpose of advertising in an unsolicited commercial e-mail, and prohibit the use of commercial e-mail advertisements containing certain falsified, misrepresented, obscured, or misleading information. The bill proceeds to the Governor.

**County-opposed, SB 418 (Sher)**, which would repeal and replace the existing law regarding the process by which an agency obtains an agreement from the State Department of Fish and Game for the alteration of a streambed, received Senate concurrence in the Assembly's amendments on September 11, 2003, by a vote of 25 to 13. The bill proceeds to the Governor.

**County-supported SJR 6 (Soto)**, which would call upon Congress to provide additional funding to the states for first responder training as part of homeland security funding, was enrolled on September 11, 2003 after the Senate concurred with Assembly amendments by a vote of 27 to 9.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK

MAL:JF:JR:DS:JL:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Local 660  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities